Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A hot dip coating apparatus for coating a steel strip wherein the strip is immersed in a bath of coating alloy containing aluminum, the apparatus comprising:

a bath of molten coating alloy containing Al-Zn alloy,

at least one component immersed in the bath of coating alloy containing Al-Zn alloy, the at least one component having a surface that comes into contact with the bath when in use,

wherein the at least one component is made from stainless steel containing greater than 0.10 wt % amount of nitrogen distributed substantially uniformly throughout its microstructure as an austenite stabliser[[.]], and up to 0.03wt% carbon.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one component is a sink roll under which the steel strip is passed.

4. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus for coating a steel strip wherein the strip is immersed in a bath of coating alloy containing aluminum, the apparatus comprising:

a bath of molten coating alloy containing Al-Zn alloy,

at least one component immersed in the bath of coating alloy containing Al-Zn alloy, the at least one component having a surface that comes into contact with the bath when in use,

wherein the at least one component includes at least one layer made from stainless steel containing greater than 0.10 wt % amount of nitrogen distributed uniformly through it microstructure as an austenite stabliser , and up to 0.03wt% carbon.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the at least one component includes a further layer, and wherein the stainless steel layer containing the nitrogen and carbon is disposed between the surface and the further layer.

7. (Previously Presented) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the further layer is formed from stainless steel.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 4 [[2]], wherein the at least one component is a sink roll under which the metal strip is passed.

12. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 11 [[5]], wherein the at least one component includes a further layer, and wherein

the stainless steel layer containing the nitrogen is disposed between the surface and the further layer.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method of coating a steel strip wherein the strip is immersed in a bath of coating alloy containing Al-Zn alloy, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a bath of molten coating alloy containing Al-Zn alloy;

providing a component made from stainless steel containing greater than 0.10 wt % amount of nitrogen distributed substantially uniformly through its microstructure as an austenite stabliser[[;]], and up to 0.03wt% carbon;

immersing said component within the molten coating alloy; and

passing the steel strip about said component immersed in the bath.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the stainless steel is 304LN stainless steel.

21. (New) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the stainless steel is 316LN stainless steel.

22. (New) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the stainless steel layer containing the nitrogen and carbon is 304LN stainless steel.

23. (New) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the stainless steel is 316LN stainless steel.

24. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the stainless steel is 304LN stainless steel.

25. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the stainless steel is 316LN stainless steel.